

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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FASHION NOTES.

—Checked cotton braids are used for trimming linen dresses.

—The military jacket is one of the latest styles for young ladies.

—Among the novelties for young girls are hats ornamented with hand painting.

—Garden-hats are of lightly-woven straw, trimmed with grasses and wild flowers.

—New styles in stationery are ornamented with grotesque old English figures in color.

—A recent extravagance among fashionable ladies in New York is the use of gold hair-pins.

—Pretty princess dresses for the little ones are made with square neck and short sleeves.

—Among the absurdities for children are the wide collars and cuffs similar to those worn by their mothers.

—Young ladies wear caps like those of the Roman peasant women; little oblong pieces of Swiss or organdy decorated with lace and ribbons, and long gold-headed pins are used to pin them on.

—Black grenadine dresses have faint tints of yellow and old gold introduced in their trimmings; sometimes in the shape of pipings, sometimes in ribbons set under the ruffles of French lace.

—Japanese pins with a fan, and a mouse watching a fly, or a silver bow, arrows and quiver, are among the newest patterns in sterling silver for long scarf-pins, and châtelaînes have the top of the hook enameled with some pretty design or a painting in enamel set in glass.

—There are so many styles now in wear that all tastes can be gratified. There is the princess dress, the cuirass waist, and the habit and polonaise. There are waists cut out in points on the borders, rounded basque waists, either open or imitating openings, with vests, or long, swallow-tail coats, with long faille vests in bright, contrasting colors.

—Pretty aprons are to be worn this season by little girls up to the age of 15. Some of these are in dotted Swiss Valenciennes or torchon insertions and lace set in the bibs and bretelles. Some of the mull and nainsook aprons have edges of colored lace, and bows of ribbon combining the two shades of the lace. A great many specimens are found in all the leading dry-goods houses.

—Black is to be worn a great deal this year; it is taking quite as prominent a part as white in the season's fashions. With this, silver jewelry is very effective; silver band bracelets are now worn quite wide, with little polished knobs or balls set closely on the edges. Large medallion pendants and lockets, also sterling silver, are found at the principal jewelers'; and handsome pins and ear-rings; some of these in the shape of round platters with bee-hives on them in frosted work, others with Japanese patterns.

—Great favor is shown this year for all the Scotch zephyr goods, or soft-finished ginghams, which resemble foulards. There is an endless variety of designs, from the plain goods in all the shades of gray, beige, and ecru, and in all plain designs up to the gaily tinted Stuart tartan. The English chevrons are also much employed for ladies and children's seaside dresses, being thoroughly well adapted for all changes of the weather, and much worn by English ladies for this reason.

—Country hats for young girls are made of coarse straw, trimmed with a full wreath of wild flowers and wild strawberries with natural leaves and dark mosses. Another style shows the black and rough-and-ready coarse straw hat drooping over the face, with the back brim upturned; placed inside is a large Alsatian bow of black velvet or Jacqueminot red ribbon, and a long ostrich feather curls over the crown. The Tyrolean shape for children is new, turned up on one side; the Alpine peak, sailor, jockey, and Scotch hats make up the remainder of the styles for the little people.

The Original Mermaid.

The London *Daily News* says: An important addition has just been made, rivaling, perhaps, in interest the celebrated gorilla "Pongo," to the Natural History Department of the Aquarium, this novelty being a gigantic manatee, or West Indian mermaid, which arrived at Glasgow last Monday, and is the second specimen ever brought to Europe of this now nearly extinct kind of animal. It is, in fact, a very good example of the species, being about nine feet long, and weighing about half a ton, while it is roughly conjectured to be about six years old. The manatee is scientifically the American and African representative of the group of syrenæ; the dugong being the Eastern one, and still existing on the coasts of India and Australia. The rhymæ, or northern manatee, is now quite extinct, but was often found in Behrings Strait up to about a century ago. This female specimen was caught in a net on the Dauntless Bank, off the Island of Leguan, north of Essequibo River, British Guiana, by some native fishermen. It is very rarely seen now in that tropical district, being the first specimen found within three years. After its capture it was taken to Demerara and there purchased by Capt. Picott, of the Direct Line West India Steamboat Company. On the passage in the Blenheim it fed freely for a time on the leaves and fruit of the moco-moco and also on those of the mangrove, brought from Demerara. When these were exhausted it fed on bread and hay, chiefly the latter. During the voyage constant attention was required to see that the water in which it was conveyed was kept at a proper temperature—namely, from 70 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit. Last Sunday morning the manager of the Aquarium received an intimation of its departure from Demerara, and thereupon he arranged that Mr. John T. Carrington, the naturalist of the society, should proceed to Glasgow to await the arrival of the Blenheim. After the ship had been met in the Clyde a lively competition commenced among the Aquarium managers, the result being that Mr. Carrington secured the stranger. It took 35 men to raise the large tank in which the animal was conveyed to a covered carriage truck which was in waiting at the St. Enoch's Station of the Midland Railway. Mr. Smith, the station-master, afforded all possible assistance, and in due course the creature arrived in London. This curious animal has mammae very much like those of the human being, and this peculiarity, combined with its curious habit of lifting the fore part of the body out of the water while searching for food, doubtless gave rise to the fables of the mermaid. However ridiculous the ancient notions may now be considered, they are nevertheless to be satisfactorily explained. The manatee, with its fish-like tail, the roundish head and the mammae of the breast, naturally suggested fables of mermaids or sirens luring the mariner to his destruction. The manatee is mentioned in "Westward Ho!" by the late Canon Kingsley, who devoted so much of the latter part of his life to wandering in the West Indies. Mr. Robertson, the General Manager, and Mr. Carrington, the Naturalist of the Aquarium, may well be congratulated on the acquisition of what is only the fourth specimen of this animal taken within the last ten years, though historical records show that it abounded in the buccaneering age.

THERE is now on exhibition in London a Japanese nobleman's room, given by the Governor of Kioto to Dr. Dresser, who was a royal guest in Japan. It is about twelve feet long by rather less width, and about nine feet in height. The roof consists of panels of cedar. All the wood in the room has a polished surface. The walls are formed of slides opening into the adjoining room, and are edged with black lacquered strips of wood, the slides being of paper decorated with figures of birds. At the end of the room is a recess, the upper part composed of wood cut so as to represent a flight of storks. Close to this is a larger recess, which, in accordance with the fashion of the country in high life, is reserved for the accommodation of the Mikado, should he ever visit the house. There is an opening at the side for the introduction of refreshments.

Mysterious Metal—Austrian Art in Steel-Bronze Guns.

It is well known that the whole of the Austrian field artillery is now armed with the new steel-bronze breech-loader of Gen. Von Uchatius. The fact that nearly £2,000,000 have been spent from first to last by the Austro-Hungarian Government upon the weapons is proof enough of the confidence felt in high quarters as to its efficiency; and we have the testimony of many experienced officers that for accuracy and endurance the gun rivals the much more costly steel cannon of Herr Krupp. Be this as it may, it is reported that the Austrian Government is now about to set to work on the manufacture of heavy guns from the same inexpensive material, and to produce ship and siege-guns from tempered bronze. Two six-inch experimental weapons which have fired several hundred rounds are reported to be still in a serviceable condition, and at short ranges may be considered armor-piercing guns. A shot at 50 or 60 yards is capable, we are told, of piercing the armor of such ironclads as the Warrior and Black Prince; and there is little doubt, therefore, that 10 or 12-inch cannon constructed on the same pattern would be a match for most of our stouter battle-ships. The Austrian gunmakers seem to be able to make bronze as hard as steel, and as capable of resisting the wear and tear of rifled projectiles, since it would be altogether impossible to pierce army-plates with a gun made of bronze in the ordinary way. If we are to believe the last reports of their big-gun experiments, the bore of the weapons after some 300 rounds had sustained no injury at all, notwithstanding that comparatively heavy projectiles were fired, and with battering charges of gunpowder. But the most surprising feature about the Uchatius gun is the fact of its secret having been so closely kept. The Austrian Government has placed no difficulty in the way of an inspection of its guns, and has permitted even the presence of foreign military attaches in the Government workshops. Nay, more; samples of the wonderful steel-bronze metal have been freely distributed, and chemists have tried their best to discover its mode of preparation by analysis. All has been in vain. Despite fair means and foul, the secret of the Uchatius metal still remains a mystery, and bids fair to do so until its inventor divulges the composition himself.—*London News*.

How Indian Women Dress.

While it is a matter of great interest to learn how Eastern ladies dress and behave, it ought to be of some interest, also, to know how Indian ladies dress and behave. Commencing at the top, it will be observed that there is a decided improvement on Eastern bonnets, because the Indian lady has nothing whatever on her head, which ends that part of the description. Her hair hangs naturally and is not very long, usually not as long as the hair of the gentleman Indian. Next comes the Indian lady's shawl, which is doubled square, and a square fold falls from her shoulder, and the fastening is with a pin or darning-needle. By the way, the shawl is not a shawl, but a blanket. Next comes her dress. This is usually calico, which is short, so as to permit free movements, so desirable to Mrs. Swissheim and others; that is, it comes to within ten inches of the ground. What the figure of the calico is can hardly be stated, since the garment is badly faded, though possibly not from being washed. Next come the shoes or moccasins, which are of buckskin, and they extend upward into leggings, which may be computed, from statements made by particular observers, to be fully two feet long. This is a combination garment that ought to come into general use, for with two pulls in the morning that part of the dressing is done; no strings to tie, no buttons to attend to, nor is blacking ever required, and thus is presented a pair of lasting garments with rawhide soles, well fitting the foot and every part, and that will last two or three years. None of the Eastern manufacturing establishments of Lawrence, Lowell or Fall River can turn out goods to equal them, and the best of it is, every lady makes hers herself, and is never indebted to a shoemaker nor hosier, nor even her husband for money. In short, she is independent. The next article of dress is—the fact is, that's all, or at least one

may say in the language of the poet: "No further seek their merits to disclose."—*Greeley (Col.) Tribune*.

Things That I Wonder At.

Why the boys who made the Fourth of July odorous and hideous with gunpowder from 1840 to 1856, inclusive, are speechless with indignation at the depraved and vicious tastes of the boys who want to enjoy the same kind of a celebration in 1878?

Why people always discuss European politics as though they understood them?

Why a man should always get mad if you frankly and for his own good tell him he is making an ass of himself?

Why it is so hard to find a man when you want to borrow money of him?

Why it is so hard to borrow the money after you have found him?

Why somebody doesn't come out and explain the Louisiana muddle?

Why a man always wishes he had chosen some other profession?

What Mrs. Jenks is talking about and what she means by it?

Why a man is always going to take a vacation "next summer?"

Why people should consider it disgraceful to be sent to Congress?

Why a man thinks every year that he won't be as big a fool this year as he was last?

And why he is, though, all the same?

Why the tramps don't ask for something to eat, if they are hungry?

Why a man never tries to beat down the price of a railroad ticket?

Why every body affects a profound knowledge of growing crops and crop prospects?

Why men always lie about the size of the fish they catch and the number of ducks they shoot?

What a girl ever sees in a great selfish, deceitful, hulking animal of a man to marry him for, any how?

Why so many foreigners should speak German or French, when it is so much easier to speak English?

Why it takes five grown people to take one sleeping infant to the circus to "see the animals?"

Why a man who doctors himself with patent medicines, three bottles for a dollar, always, in referring to his health, speaks of "his physicians" as though he were constantly attended by a retinue of 50 or 60 doctors?

Why it is wrong to kill the man who says he told you so?

Why really generous men are always so ready to admit that you were in the wrong?—*Hawkeye Burdette*.

The Sagacity of Ants.

Prof. Leidy, in a recent article, states that, in order to ascertain whether a house he had just entered was (as he suspected) seriously infested with red ants, he placed a piece of sweet cake in every room. At noon every piece was found covered with ants. A cup of turpentine oil being provided, each piece was picked up with forceps, and the ants tapped into the oil. The cake was replaced, and in the evening was again found covered with ants. The same process was gone through the following two days, morning, noon and night. The third day the number of ants had greatly diminished, and on the fourth there were none. He at first supposed the ants had all been destroyed, but in the attic he observed a few feasting on some dead house-flies, which led him to suspect that the remaining ants had become suspicious of the sweet cake. He accordingly distributed through the house pieces of bacon, which were afterwards found swarming with ants. This was repeated with the same result for several days, when, in like manner with the cake, the ants ceased to visit the bacon. Pieces of cheese were next tried with the same result, but with an undoubted thinning in the number of ants. When the cheese proved no longer attractive, dead grasshoppers were supplied from the garden. These again proved too much for the ants, but after a few days' trial neither grasshoppers nor any thing else attracted them; nor has the house been infested with them since.

—A gentleman at Orange City, Fla., received some pop-corn seed from Wisconsin last February, which he planted on the 5th of March; he gathered in the crop and returned seed to Wisconsin by the 1st of June to be replanted there.